



## RESO-Femmes

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Good morning Mr Chairman, distinguished members of the conference. I am the president of RESO-Femmes. RESO-Femmes international is based in Geneva and RESO-Femmes network composed of different organizations, is based in West Africa. We began with a pilot project in 2009 in Mopti Mali to try to systematize the observation of women's employment in rural region from rural and urban women and how to improve their conditions and statutory situations. We were very surprised to see that ideas and local women innovations already existed in Mali but was hardly acknowledged by the international community and in the context of bilateral relations. Therefore we initiated a research action program to work on improving the visibility of isolated rural and regional groups of women and to strengthen their own civil and democratic movements. We started our approach by integrating different groups of women coming from local organizations. For that we tried to get local leaders recruited from different associations, which already covered the different fields of MDG goals. Actually 8 specific approaches are integrated to our program such as gender empowerment, parity to allow more equitable access of women to resources and greater equity in assisting the forgotten people in the world. Without entering into details, I would like to name a few good indicators selected directly from the women's own initiatives among the different themes of this conference. First, I think that we need to integrate traditional value systems to voluntary work participation and to strengthen the concept of women empowerment from the African history inscription. We know for instance from our experience of Mopti, that international institutions have poor knowledge of local political participation and that it is very important to train women together and to develop innovative tools and methods if we want to promote women's equal access in political, social and

economic decisions will help to grow these micro-entrepreneurs and their networks in our network and would like to emphasize the necessity of feminist action both within and outside women's structures and their movements.

1- To encourage political action and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against all women: we have nevertheless done a lot of work in this area in order to help women to find their own voice and to give their network enough resources to undertake their own projects and to reach their objectives. Our team is involved in research and the diffusion of these results.

2- To foster social action: we train together and with the same program all kinds of women and give them enough power and self-esteem to believe that they can become their own ambassadors of their community and also for their whole nation. From our results, we are now trying to systematize our training in Côte d'Ivoire, Bénin, Togo. Our website has more information on these programs.

3- To spur economic action: we have recently created a new project "FAA" customized to local needs and the voice of women. This project is a very helpful tool to train women regardless of their social and political background. Our research department has been structured so that it answers and helps women to find the right orientation to global issues. This project has come out of a long and exhaustive process of research on gender experiences over 6 years (when our NGO was created) and is presented in the book "Water, Sanitation, Food" presents a very interesting and useful approach to these issues. We are going through our efforts to work with organizations, instead of going around them. There is still even now a lot of resistance, justified by the alleged lack of research and ground in this field and lack of expertise, grounded on traditional stereotypes. I thus would like to make the voice of my West African partners here and I hope that you can speed up our actions through financial and logistical support. We are very happy to see that our women are active and we hope for the best for our members here. We thank you very much for this opportunity to speak on behalf of our members. Nadège Chellier, directrice et anthropologue.